



Saint Brendan's College, Belmullet, Co. Mayo

HOMEWORK POLICY

Date passed by BOM	2-12-15
Review date.	September 2018
Signature Of Chairperson.	
Signature of BOM member.	



St. Brendan's College Homework Policy

This policy is part of the school's essential aim to foster in students a spirit of responsibility, respect and care in their work and to provide them with the skills for life-long learning.

Rational

Regular homework and revision are essential components of school work and contribute to the development of study skills. It supports the work done in class and promotes learning.

For students, homework reinforces the work covered in class. It allows students to recognise areas of difficulty and apply and use knowledge in different situations, and prepares students for exams.

For teachers, homework provides a feedback on students' progress and allows them to identify individual student's strengths and weaknesses.

It provides parents/guardians with an opportunity to see the work students are doing. It also allows parental involvement in the students' learning.

Homework can take a variety of forms including written assignments, oral assignments, learning assignments, revision work and research or project work.

Non completion of homework will be regarded as a breach of the school's Code of Behaviour and may be subject to sanctions.

Aims of Homework Policy

- To ensure a consistent approach to the setting, correction and reviewing of homework across all subjects.
- To ensure a fair distribution of homework for each subject.
- To promote effective study habits and skills in all students.
- To help students to improve their own learning.
- To enable students to organise their own work.
- To help teachers to evaluate student progress.
- To assess each student's strengths and weaknesses in subject areas.
- To highlight areas where remedial action may be necessary.
- To identify students who are experiencing problems with homework / study.
- To encourage parents/guardians' interest and to include them in their children's work and progress.



Student Homework Journal

The student homework journal is an essential tool in helping students, teachers and parents to monitor and review homework given and completed. Each student must have his/her homework journal available for all classes and produce same if requested by a teacher. Journals must be kept in good order and replaced if damaged.

The Role of Students

Students will be expected to:

- Be responsible for their homework.
- Homework for every class should be written in the school journal.
- Review material covered in class as part of homework.
- Complete all homework to the best of their ability and if this is not possible, evidence of a genuine attempt must be produced..
- Present completed homework on time.
- Present a note from parents/guardians where there is a valid reason for not having complete homework.
- Get journal signed weekly by parent/guardian.
- Students absent from class due to extra-curricular activities are expected to find out their homework assignments and complete them.
- If a student has been out sick, and does not have work completed, a period of time will be given to the student to complete missed assignments.

The Role of Parents

Parents will be encouraged to:

- Provide suitable working conditions for homework.
- Monitor the school journal to ensure that homework is being done.
- Sign the school journal weekly.
- Provide a note in the journal to the teacher if there is any reason why homework is not completed.
- Inform the class teacher / class tutor / year head if ongoing difficulties arise regarding homework.



The Role of the Class Teacher

All Teachers will:

- Assign appropriate regular homework to each class.
- Keep a record of homework given.
- Assess homework assignments regularly and provide oral and/or written feedback to students and parents.
- Maintain a record of attainment.
- Inform parents if students do not present homework.
- Ensure that students are given instructions in a clear, concise and consistent manner so as students understand what to do.
- Give praise and encouragement for students' effort and attainment on a regular basis and support them to become more confident about learning.
- Students with special needs should be assigned homework conducive to their level of ability. Written assignments should be clear, manageable, and of short duration.

Responsibilities of School Management

- Year Heads will have responsibility for checking the progress of students through discussion with their tutor, teachers and monitoring of school journals.
- Class tutors will sign students' journals weekly.
- Year Heads and Class tutors will work with students, teachers, and parents to increase students' awareness of the benefits of homework.
- The Board of management, Principal and Deputy Principal will provide structures for the implementation and review of the homework policy and will facilitate the ongoing pursuit of best practice.

Guidelines for appropriate time spent on homework:

Students vary in both ability levels and in the amount of time it may take them to complete homework assignments. Each student should work at a pace that is comfortable for him/her. Help and support are available to students who may struggle with homework, and teachers are very aware that circumstances may arise when students are unable to complete assignments.



Homework and Revision

Students in 1st Year and 2nd Year should be spending up to 2 hours per day.

Junior Certificate students should be spending up to 3 hours per day.

TY students should be spending up to 2 hours per day.

5th Year students should be spending up to 3 hours per day.

6th Year students should spend 3+ hours per day. Weekend study/revision is also essential at this level.

Study Skills:

In order to help our students to organise their homework assignment and study time, 1st year students will learn about study skills as part of our S.P.H.E, and School Completion Programmes.

After school Homework Club is available twice a week to all First Year students.

Junior Certificate, TY and Leaving Certificate students will be taught study skills methods within the school.

An after-school supervised study programme is available to a limited number of examination students.

Evaluation of the policy:

The policy will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Feedback received from teachers, students and parents, with regard to the success of the policy in achieving its stated aims.
- Evidence showing improved recording of homework by students in their student journals.
- Success in monitoring of homework by teachers and class tutors.
- Evaluation of our students to indicate improvement in their level of responsibility for homework completion.
- Evaluation of the contribution of parents/guardians in helping and supporting students with homework.

This policy will be reviewed during the school term 2018-2019.

